

News from Tunstall Church

A Good Year for the Roses

On Saturday 20th June, one of our village’s most senior residents opened her garden to the public. Pat Naysmith’s garden hosted almost 90 members of the village over the course of the afternoon and there was a lovely atmosphere with numerous stalls, great refreshments and wonderful plants to admire. It was the first-ever performance for our scratch choir and they did us proud. The event raised an incredible amount - £801.37 which has been donated in its entirety to our church repair fund. A huge thanks to everyone who turned out to be part of this memorable day; to all the volunteers, the stall holders who made donations, the cake makers and to those of you who donated bottles - and especially to Pat, who opened her garden and welcomed everyone with such generosity of heart.



It’s Getting Better

We’re delighted to say that last month, we were awarded £5000 in grant funding from the Ganzoni Trust which has massively kickstarted the campaign to repair the church. What particularly impressed them was the way the community is getting involved and the church is being reborn as a place for all of us to use in diverse ways as well as a place for worship. Just a few days ago, we also heard that we have been awarded £1200 from the Scarfe Trust,

and in addition, we have had private donations from several members of the village over the last month. You can donate directly in the church, or you can visit our Go Fund Me page - <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-tunstall-church>.

Any donations of £50 or more will be recognised on permanent display in the church upon completion of the works. It is fair to say that our fundraising efforts are causing a stir, and people from outside the village - and quite far afield have heard how Tunstall have pulled together as a community. This makes us extremely proud of our village!

Don’t You Forget About Me

The scratch choir has now finished rehearsing for a while, but what they achieved in 6 rehearsals was immense. First, most said they couldn’t sing. Then when they realised they could, they said they couldn’t sing without their words in front of them. Now that’s been disproved, who knows what the future holds. Our mixed choir had people aged from their twenties to retirees and as well as feeling the benefit of the healing

effects of singing, we all had a really good laugh. Watch this space, and we’ll let you know if/when we revive the project.

Help!

For our next phase of fundraising, we really need you to let us know what you’d like to see in the church. We plan to hold our programme of services through the year as always, but over the last few months, it has been a joy to see the place used for other means. The choir has brought people together, a local group have started using it for play reading due to its acoustics, and I walked in one Saturday recently when the gardening group had been at work and had stopped for their tea break, complete with cake provided by our lovely village clerk and was struck by the conviviality and togetherness with everyone striving for this one goal and taking genuine pride in Tunstall and in the changes they are effecting.

To get involved or make suggestions, please contact Sarah, the secretary - 07900 657780 or st.michael’s.tunstall@gmail.com



Tunstall BULLETIN

Number 286
July 2026

Tunstall Parish Council

Trees and Hedges

A very polite reminder to all to ensure trees, hedges and undergrowth are kept clear of the highway, footpaths and pavements. It is especially important to see that any prickly hedges or bushes do not spill over on to paths as this can cause pedestrians to walk on the road to avoid them. If you would like assistance with a hedge please do not hesitate to get in contact and we will try to put you in touch with a local contractor who can assist.

Dog Poo

Unfortunately dog poo continues to be an issue around the village. We would like to remind residents and visitors to Tunstall that not picking up after your dog is a criminal offence and as such needs to be reported to the police by telephoning 101 or East Suffolk Council on 0333 016 2000.

Tunstall Grapevine

Let us know your email address and we will keep you informed of the latest news.

Tiffany Pollock, Clerk to Tunstall Parish Council
1 CountryLife Cottage, Orford Road, Tunstall, IP12 2JA 01728 688816
clerk@tunstallparish.gov.uk

Have your say on Tunstall’s future

HELP SHAPE THE NEW LOCAL PLAN

Scoping consultation on what matters most

We are preparing a new Local Plan for East Suffolk that will guide how the area grows and develops up to 2045. We’d like to hear your thoughts on what matters most for the Local Plan to address.

What infrastructure or services are important to you?

What do you value most about East Suffolk and why?

How can new development improve places you care about?

Complete the survey by 5pm on 29 July 2026

How can the new Local plan support businesses and jobs?

How can we reach people about the new Local Plan?

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/newlocalplan



A spectacular, Suffolk live music event not to be missed: Saturday 15th August

THE BISCUIT BROTHERS and NGX

Featuring THE BISCUIT BROTHERS and NGX

TICKETS £15 scan the QR code to purchase your tickets Or search [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) Hush House Biscuit Brothers NGX

FANTASTIC FOOD BY REUBEN’S & VERNON, PLUS BAR from 6pm, Music from 7

Venue The Hush House, Bentwaters Parks, Rendlesham, Suffolk IP12 2TW

Proceeds go to these charities:

Suffolk Live Music Event

Saturday 15th August at The Hush House, Bentwaters Parks

Fundraising for: Emmaus Suffolk - Homelessness charity and Centrepoint - Youth homelessness charity

To book tickets please visit: [Hush House charity gig with the Biscuit Brothers and the NGX Tickets, Saturday 15 August • 6 PM - 11 PM | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)





Gathering!

Perhaps gathering is one of the most important things we do as human beings. We gather at village shows and community events, in pubs and clubs, and with family and friends and they are great occasions to build memories and have fun.

Yet gathering can also bring challenges.

Simon and Garfunkel famously sang, “*I am a rock, I am an island,*” describing someone who shuts himself off from relationships to avoid being hurt again. We may understand the attraction of that idea, but it is also a sad way to live. Human beings are made for relationships, and life without meaningful connection can be a lonely existence.

Do you remember the COVID lockdowns? One of the hardest parts was being separated from family and friends. Video calls helped, but they were never the same as being together in person.

Of course, it is not only pandemics that keep us apart. Sometimes loved ones live far away. Sometimes separation comes through disagreements, broken

relationships, or bereavement. If that is your experience, my heart goes out to you. Broken relationships hurt, especially when they leave us feeling isolated and alone.

The Bible teaches that our need for community is central to who we are. It helps us understand why broken relationships are so painful, while also offering hope. Again and again, God promises to be with those who trust in Him, and He calls His people to gather together. In fact, the word “*church*” simply means a gathering.

At its heart, church should be a loving community that gathers together to love God, love each other and love those around them —not only on bright and joyful days, but also during life's darker seasons, when loneliness can feel overwhelming. Being part of a Church should mean that we are never really alone.

You would be very welcome in Grace Church!

DAVE RUSHBROOK
Minister, Grace Church Rendlesham
www.gracerendlesham.org

Activities

Coffee Cake and Chat

For all, including toddlers
Every Wednesday during school term time at Tunstall Chapel
9:30am -11:30 am

Friday Club

For primary school children.
Every Friday during school term time at Tunstall Chapel
6:30pm-7:30pm

Youth Group

Secondary school young people.
Every Friday during school term time at Tunstall Chapel
7:45pm-9:00pm

Weekly Morning Service

We meet every Sunday at 10.30am in Rendlesham Primary School.

Tunstall Bowls Club

With the playing season well under way, matches being played in the Thursday Fynn League continue. We are having mixed results and due to a couple of matches being postponed, our true position is not available.

Renovations to the bowls green are largely complete and we are now in the lap of the gods with the weather, which at the moment is particularly challenging.

On a positive note, our new recruits have settled in well and are gaining in skills and confidence and have been playing in the league matches and our open tournaments.

We have also had three very successful open tournaments and host another mid week pairs on Wednesday 8th July, if you would like to come and watch.

St Felix Church
Rendlesham Top up Shop

Tuesday’s 11am – 12 noon

Refreshments 10am – 11.30am

Donations always welcome nonperishable food items, cat and dog food.

The Vicar’s Voice

Confined to barracks for a while I have been drawn into the thoughts of our mentors speaking to me online from the pulpits of cathedrals, as we transitioned to the long green season of Ordinary time and as I count 21 weeks between Trinity Sunday and 25 October. We will already be four or five weeks in by the time we begin our month of July, during which time our lectionary notes celebratory days for the apostles Thomas and James, and for Jesus’s companions Mary and Martha and Lazarus, and also for Mary Magdalene on her festival day 22 July – a prompt to us all to do as she was bid, to go and spread the news.

Jesus has returned to the Father, yet these days of celebration of individual disciples, as well as of so many other ordinary people, serve to make sure we don’t forget what kind of person he was, calling fishermen and a tax collector to discipleship, teaching through parables, healing and cleansing the sick and diseased. These were ordinary daily activities for Jesus, albeit extraordinary in our eyes, not something that any of us could think of doing. Excavation and research in Turkey is exposing the extraordinary, that is remnants of buildings and settlements indicating possibly large gatherings of people in Christian worship in 3rd century CE and in one underground tomb in Iznik, a huge, perfectly preserved fresco, of Jesus as shepherd standing with sheep in a meadow full of grasses and flowers, dressed in a Roman knee length toga with short dark hair (and no beard). It is believed that political and economic difficulties of the Roman Empire, low infant mortality, general opposition to Emperor worship and imperialism all helped to foster the appeal and growth of early Christianity, especially in present day Turkey, and around Ephesus.

[https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/turkey-christianity-jesus-picture-iznikarchaeology-b2986393.html]

Extraordinary in the ordinary is a bit like Trinity itself, isn’t it? The father always there from the beginning, the Son come to redeem us, and the Holy Spirit gathering us all up together in the love of God, uniting us and not dividing us. We are hearing our theologians speak more directly about the threats in our society now, as artificial intelligence gains momentum and as power finds its way to those whose values do not seem very like our own. There is a fear which our Christian mentors seek to calm, encouraging us that the Spirit of Truth has now come upon us opening the way for the Holy Spirit to energise us and take up the challenges which present themselves, loving one another in our communities ever more fiercely to build and rebuild, to unite not divide and to include not exclude.

This is a voice resounding strongly in what I have read about Pope Leo’s long pastoral letter, his Magnificat Humanitas, which could be holiday reading for all of us. May concentrated power be diluted wherever it exists. And he ends with the Magnificat of that other wondrous Mary, the mother of Jesus, the prayer we all love, Roman Catholic or not: He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.

Enjoy the summer,

JANET BISHOP
Reader

Save the date: 2nd October



Do you know what Michaelmas is? It is a festival celebrated on September 29th, celebrating St. Michael and all Angels. It marks the changing of the seasons to autumn, the end of the harvest. This year why not join us for an evening of music, food and fundraising?

On 2nd October at Tunstall Community Hall, we will be raising the roof and funds for Farmers Suicide Charity as well as our own parish. We hope to have an auction as well as a raffle.

Reserve the date now and watch out for more details soon!

Diary dates

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 6pm on Wednesday 12 August at Tunstall Community Hall.

The Mobile Library

Tunstall Green:
Wednesday 22 July 10.25—10.50
Tunstall Common:
Friday 24 July 15:50-16:05

August 2026 Bulletin

Please send or give all material to the editor: Tiffany Pollock 688 816, tiffpollock@hotmail.co.uk by **15 July 2026**